



Washington State – Instream Flow Program

AWSE Spring Workshop May 21-22, 2007

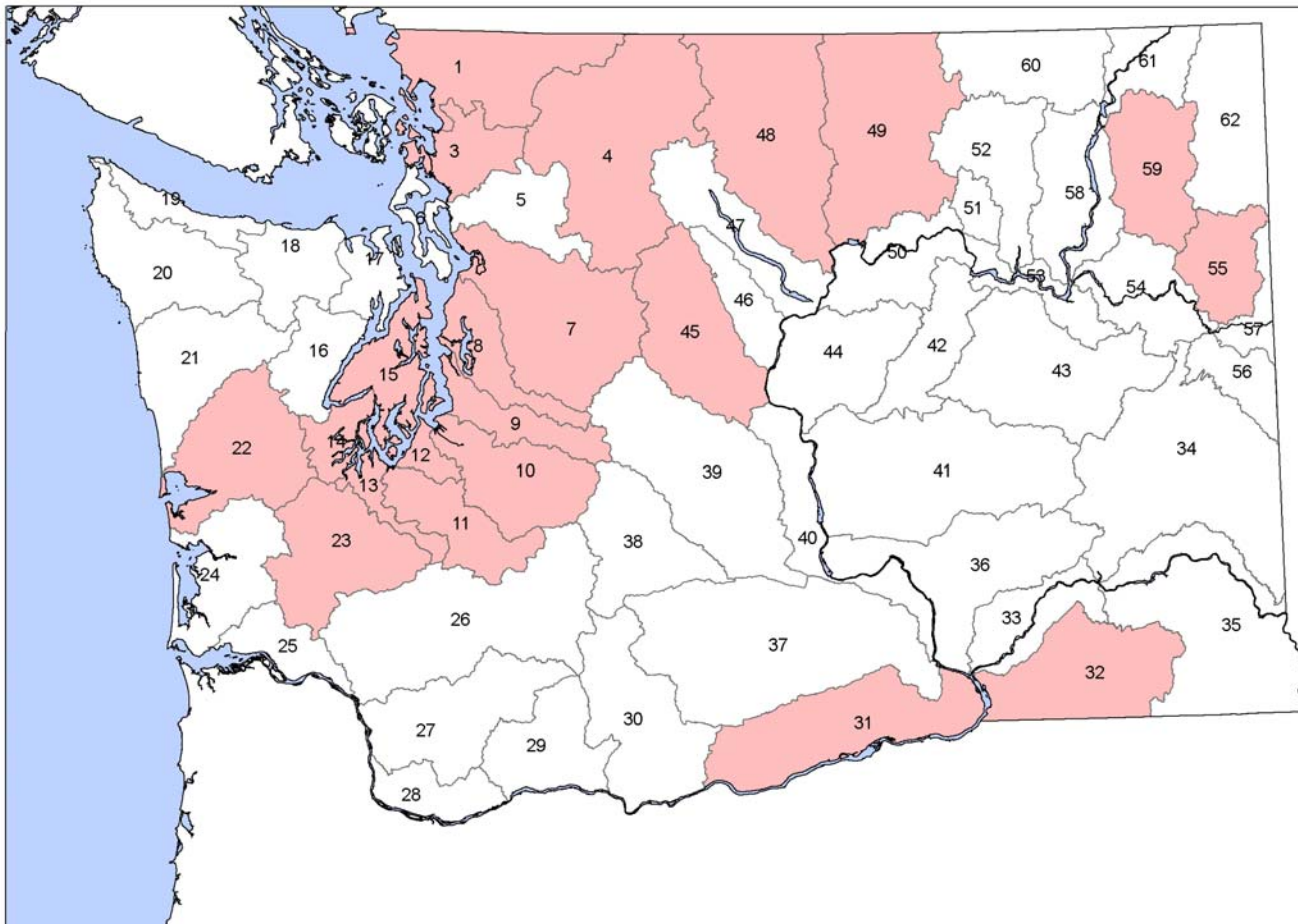
Presented By:

Travis Burns, Instream Flow Rulemaking
Washington State Department of Ecology

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Strategy: Adopt New Flow Rules

Map of instream flow rules pre - 2001



Instream Flow
Schedule

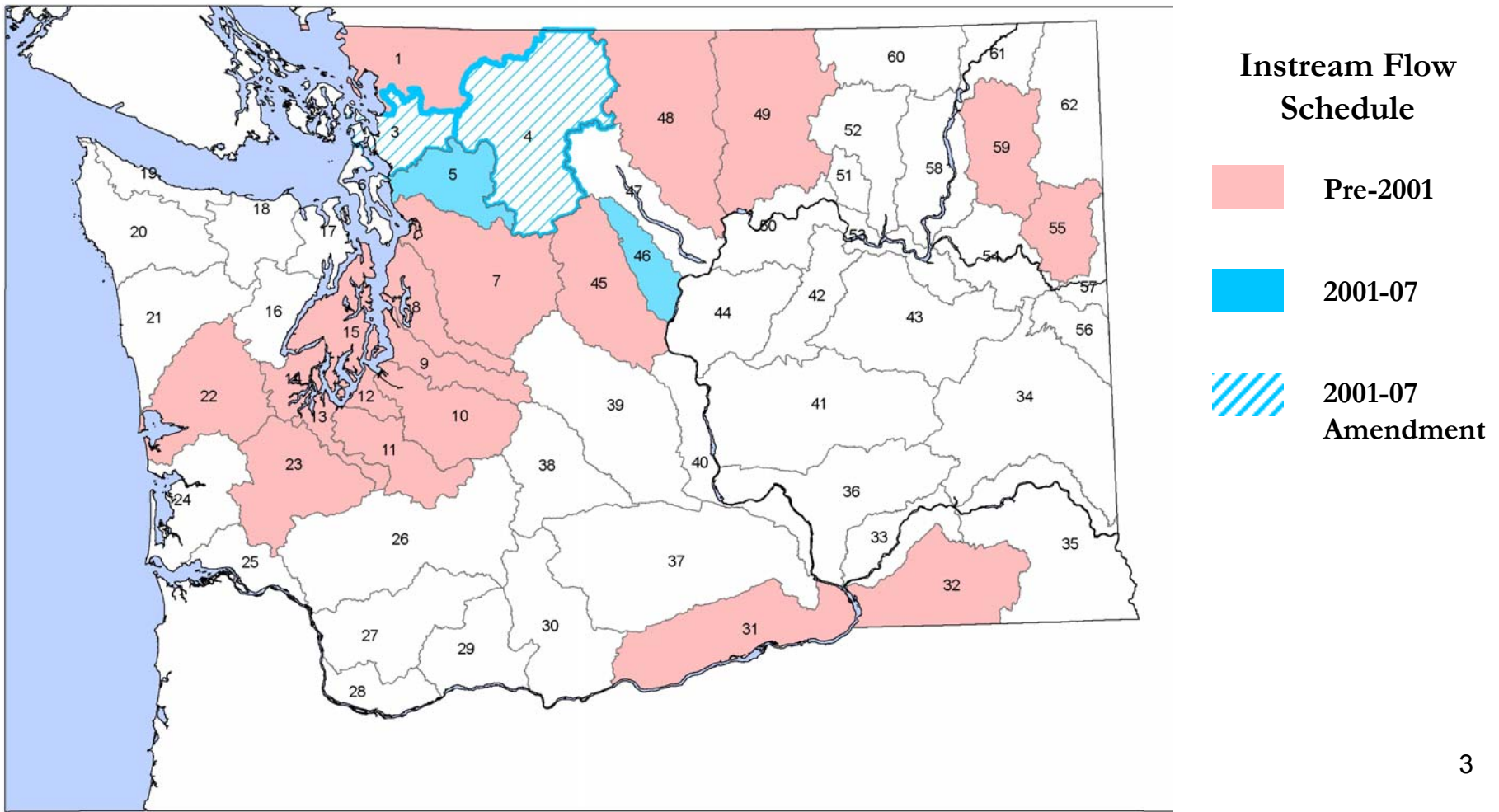


Pre-2001

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Strategy: Adopt New Flow Rules

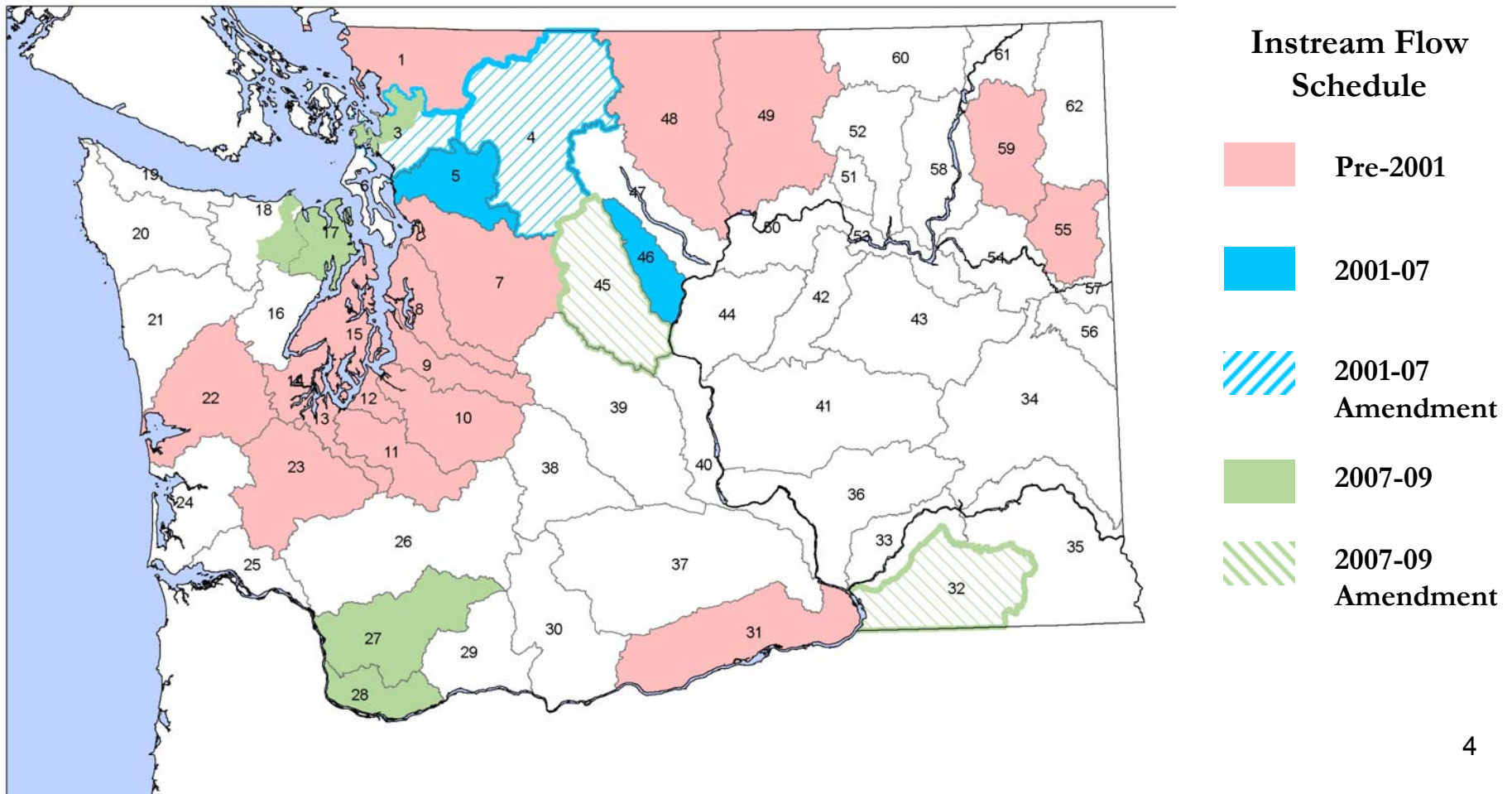
Map of instream flow rules 2001 through June 30, 2007



Strategy: Adopt New Flow Rules

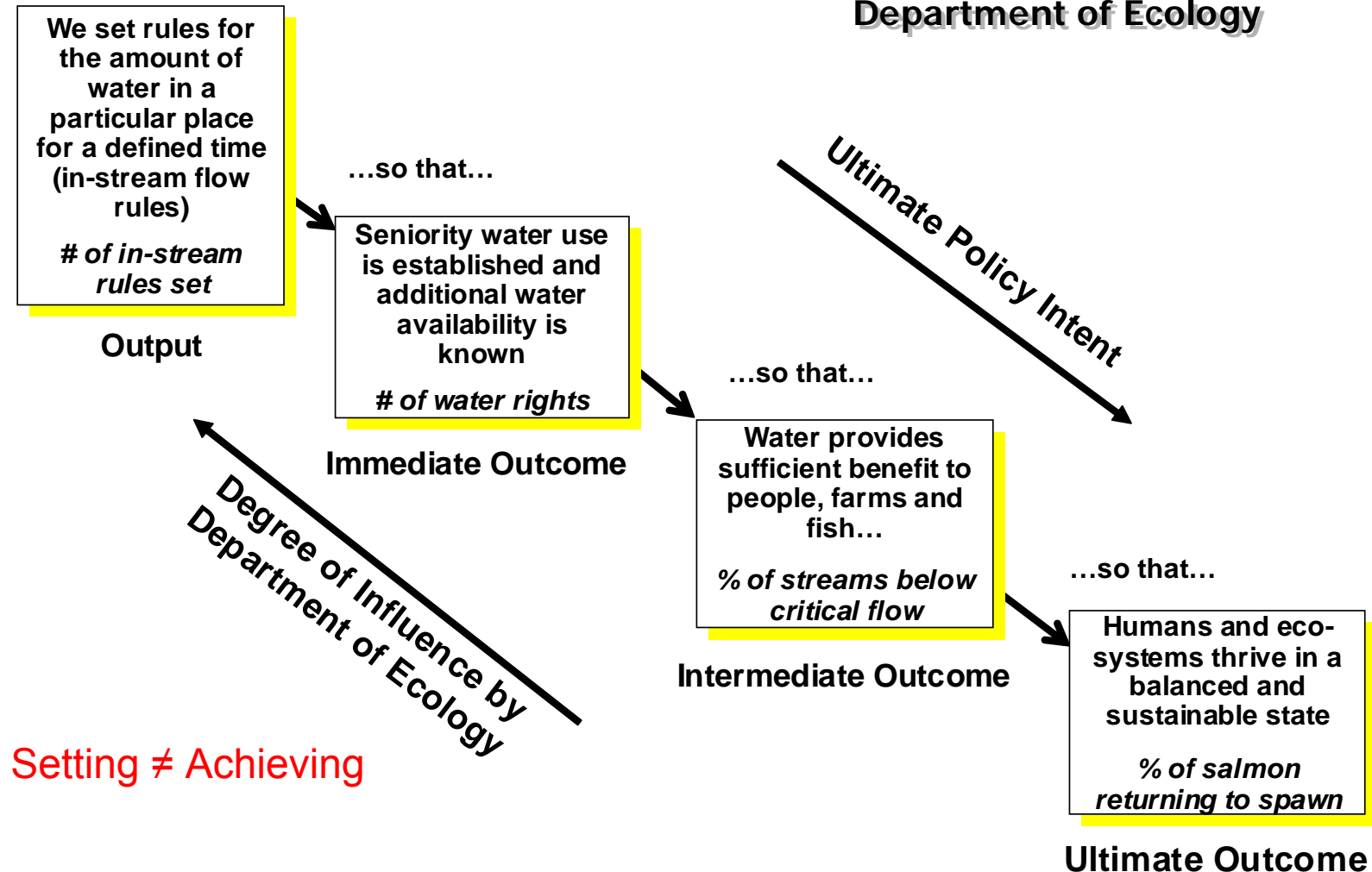
Measure: Percent of Water Resources Inventory Areas (WRIAs) covered by instream flow rules

31% (24 WRIAs out of 62 statewide have rules (Instream flows or closures)



Instream Flow Setting Logic Model

Department of Ecology





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Resources committed:

FY 05-07

- ♦ 16 FTEs (\$3.2M) - Watershed leads and support
- ♦ 15.4 FTEs (\$3.3M) - Water Resources rule writers, scientists & support
- ♦ 5 FTEs – Department of Fish & Wildlife



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Education and Outreach 05-07

- ♦ Education and outreach in each watershed planning unit
- ♦ 17 workshops & open houses
- ♦ 10 Public hearings
- ♦ 28 web actions (includes updates)
- ♦ 52 outreach products (Frequently Asked Questions, Focus sheets, news releases, news ads, e-mail notices)
- ♦ 7 legislative reports
- ♦ Annual report preparation

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Managing Streamflow Improvements

Drivers

- ◆ Puget Sound
- ◆ Watershed Planning
- ◆ Salmon Enhancement
- ◆ Columbia River Water Management Program
- ◆ Climate change



Constraints

- ◆ Population growth and related water demand
- ◆ High costs associated with enhancing flows
- ◆ Lack of market for exchanges of water
- ◆ Climate change and reduced summer flows
- ◆ Impermeable surfaces/changed hydrology
- ◆ Need to integrate regulatory structures (WQ/salmon protection/WR)

Tools for Improved Management of Streamflows:

- ◆ Administrative/regulatory actions
- ◆ Water monitoring and measurement
- ◆ Storage
- ◆ Conservation/Re-use
- ◆ Water Trust Program
- ◆ Water Banking
- ◆ Compliance
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Coordination with other efforts



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Compliance

- ♦ Web tools

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/instream-flows/irpp_wrp.html

- ♦ Stream regulation

- Southwest Regional Office – new Chehalis
- Central Regional Office – Methow, Okanogan, Wenatchee
- Eastern Regional Office - Little Spokane; set-up for Colville

- ♦ Metering

- 80% metered in 16 critical basins (except Walla Walla and Quilcene)

- ♦ Linking Department of Health's water system tracking system ("SENTRY" and the Ecology Water Rights Tracking System (WRTS))

- ♦ Cooperation with County Gvs



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Challenges

- ♦ Resources vs. pace
- ♦ Links to GMA and land use decisions
- ♦ Improving Puget Sound flows while accommodating the equivalent of another 7?
- ♦ Implementing the outcome of ground water studies (e.g. exempt wells)
- ♦ Impact on flows with the use of inchoate municipal water
- ♦ Intergovernmental cooperation – (Tribes, federal agencies, state, local)
- ♦ Legal Precedence/Appeals of decisions and/or rules
- ♦ Demonstrated legislative support for new efforts – Will they stand with us when going gets tough

An aerial photograph of a mountainous landscape. A river flows through the center of the image, surrounded by green valleys and brown, rocky mountain peaks. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is positioned in the upper right quadrant, containing the text 'Any Further Questions or Comments?'.

**Any Further
Questions or
Comments?**

Travis Burns 360.407.7207
Washington State Department of Ecology
tbur461@ecy.wa.gov